

- 2 -

Amendments to the Specification

Replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-22, with the following amended paragraph:

-According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a filter underdrain apparatus for controlling backwash water flow maldistribution in a filtration system from a backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain apparatus comprising a plurality of panel members assembled adjacent each other to form a grid like underdrain, each panel member element having multiple punched bridges in a surface thereof, each bridge defining a pair of slotted water inlet/outlets and wherein the number and/or size of said punched bridges are varied from panel member to panel member, said panel members furthest away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number of bridges or smaller slotted inlet/outlets from said panel members nearer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system, said panel members being operable to provide a substantially equalised equalized water flow through the underdrain assembly from said panel members.--

Replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 10-21, with the following amended paragraph:

--Inner panel 50 further includes a multiple of generally rectangular apertures in the form of punched bridges ~~[[58]]~~ 59 (Figure 4), the bridges 59 being substantially equidistance from each other and arranged by row and column. Each bridge 58 defines a pair of slotted water inlet/outlet apertures 60 (Figure 7) through the upper and lower surfaces 52, 54 of the inner panel 50. The slotted apertures 60 are of a dimension sufficiently small to substantially prevent the passage of filter media thereby allowing for the elimination of a support layer of gravel above the

- 3 -

panels 44 which gravel is principally used to support
the sand layer resting thereon.--